

THE FAIRY CHRISTMAS TREE A Xmas Fairy Story for Children by EDWARD WRIGHT

The wife and husband looked up in astonishment. The berries on the mountain ash were glowing with a deep, soft, red light. The tree seemed to be hung with lamps carved out of large round rubies. The inexpressibly beautiful radiance grew richer and fuller and brighter, flooding all the room, and transfiguring, with its strange rosy-red tint, the wondering faces of man, woman and children.

"Listen!" said Peggy, who had the quick, fresh sense of a woodland child. "I've seen a light in the distance, and then came nearer and nearer. Peggy ran to the door and unlatched it, and into the room there swept a troop of pretty little forest elves. They were all clad in Lincoln-green, except their Queen, who wore a bodice and a kirtle of pure, snowy silk, with a girdle of gold and a golden hein.

"Thank you so much," she said to Dan, "for bringing the fairy tree in out of the cold and the snow. It will be much nicer for us to dance by a warm fire in this weather than out in the chill forest."

"I'm sorry we've nothing of a supper for you, ma'am," said Doll Derrick. "But if you'd care to taste our rabbit pie."

"No!" said the Queen of the Elves, touching the table with her wand. "You must permit me to provide a feast for you this Christmas."

The table at once became covered with a splendid dinner. There were roast turkey, and Christmas pudding and grapes, and nuts and sweets, and boxes of crackers, and every good thing, in fact, that the heart of man could wish for.

"Now," said the Queen of the Elves, "while you are all enjoying yourselves we will do our Christmas homage to the Lady of the Mountain Ash. Strike up, my merry harpers!"

Four little men, with four little harps, sat down by the fire, and began to make a sweet, fairy music, and the Queen and the other elves took hold of hands, and danced round the red-lighted mountain ash. And as they danced they sang:

If there was one thing that little Peggy Derrick liked even more than Christmas pudding it was dancing; and there was, besides, a strange and delicious charm in the music that the elfin harpers were playing.

"Oh, let's go and dance, too!" she cried, "and finish the feast afterwards!"

She got down from the table, and her four brothers followed her. Then her mother came, and at last Dan himself, now trembling with anxiety, joined them.

As they whirled round, the lights on the mountain ash grew dim, and about the tree a soft incense gathered, and took on the form of a lady of wild, unspokeable beauty, clad in vapory, trailing robes. When the dancers gave over, she was standing beside the tree in the center of the ring, and gazing at Dan Derrick. There was a kindness in her glance, but for all that, poor Dan's knees shook under him.

"Well, all's well that ends well," she said. "But you were a very bold man, Dan, to bring me into your house in so unceremonious a fashion. I had half a mind to slay you outright last night!"

Dan then had a glorious inspiration. "It was well for you that you didn't hurt me, ma'am," he said very respectfully, yet firmly. "Look what I've done for you already. Some rabbit had barrowed under your tree, and the earth was so loose there that down you would surely have come in the next gale. You oughtn't to have set that kee on me, you know."

"Yes; I'm sorry now for that," said the Lady of the Tree. "But hurry back at once to the spot from which you took me, and dig there and take what you find."

Away went Dan with a spade, and the Lady of the Tree and the Queen of the Elves began to talk together.

When Dan returned, carrying with some difficulty, a heavy sack on his shoulder, he heard the Lady say to the Elf Queen: "Yes, I think you are right. The motor-cars are a great nuisance. A quiet orchard on the skirts of the forest would be the very place for us."

"I know of a fine fruit-farm for sale, ma'am," said Dan. "And, from what I can see, there's plenty of money in this sack to buy it."

"Very well; buy it, my friend," said the Lady of the Tree, "and plant the mountain ash there; and the elves and I will look after the fruit for you."

Before departing back into the fairy tree, she stroked Dan's arm; and he was able to open the door with it as he said good-night to the Queen of the Elves and her troop.

Dan now grows the best apples in New England, and he has a very good crop of them in the worst season.

"I say, Mr. Derrick," said a stranger one day, "why don't you root up that useless mountain ash in the center there?"

"Oh, that's what some folks call a fairy tree!" said Dan. "They say it brings a man luck."

Snakes as Ghosts. The Zulus and other primitive peoples regard snakes as ancestral ghosts, the notion arising partly from the uncanny nature of the serpent, partly from its fondness of living near graves and then crawling into houses—as though it might be revisiting an old home.

Fancy candy at Nell's for schools and churches at the right price. Fine line of Picture Moulding at Carpenter's. Call and see them.

GETTING NIGHT RIDERS' JURY

At Union City—Over 200 Witnesses Called.

Union City, Tenn., Dec. 16.—Tuesday was spent in preparation for Wednesday's court session, at which the selecting of a jury to hear the cases of the eight men charged with murder in connection with the recent Night Rider raids at Reelfoot lake will begin.

The special grand jury Tuesday heard several witnesses and learned more of the earlier raids, especially about the burning of the fish wharves at Samburg in April. One of the witnesses, John Shaw, was several times "visited." When the fish piers were burned he was forced, according to his statement, to take place in the vanguard of the crowd and act as a shield against the bullets of those in charge of the piers. Shaw declares that although he complied with the demands of the clan and withdrew from the land company against which the efforts of the band were directed, he was whipped.

JURY SECURED IN HAINS CASE

State Commences Presentation of its Case Today—Unique Adjunct.

Flushing, N. Y., Dec. 16.—A jury of 12 men has been selected to try Thornton J. Hains as a principal in the killing of W. E. Annis, who was shot to death by Capt. Peter Hains at the Bayville Yacht club last summer, and on Wednesday the state will present its case against the author.

A feature of the trial will be a tank of water and a model float and catboat in miniature replica of the scene of the shooting, which will be placed on a table in front of the witness stand. Iron manikins representing the principals in the affair will be moved about in this marine theater to illustrate actions and positions taken in the tragedy by Hains and the witnesses.

Miller Arrest a Mistake.

Detroit, Mich., Dec. 16.—Capt. Owenshine of Company D, Seventh United States Infantry, stationed at Fort Wayne, stated Tuesday that the report from Toledo that Quartermaster Sergeant Wilson Miller of his company is under arrest on suspicion of having stolen government supplies which were found in Toledo, is not correct. "Miller," said Capt. Owenshine, "who is an excellent man, with a record of 28 years of service, bought and paid for all of the supplies found in Toledo. There are no charges pending against him in connection with the supplies. Miller has gone to Toledo to straighten out the mistake."

THE IMPOSSIBLE.

A man may stop a foaming horse that's tearing down the street; May stop an enemy's advance amid the heat of the heat; In fact, stop almost anything in situations trying; But not a single man alive can stop a baby crying. —Louisville Evening Post.

Would Do as Well.

"I am sorry to have to tell you," said the eminent surgeon, "that we shall have to perform an operation." "That's all right," answered the patient. "Go ahead." "But the condition of your heart is such that we do not dare to use any anæsthetic." "O, well; tell me what the bill is going to be, doctor. That will be sufficiently stupefying." —Chicago Tribune.

Innovation Credited to King.

Charles II. is said to have first encouraged the public appearance of women on the stage in England in 1662.

DOWNWARD COURSE.

Fast Being Realized by Canfield People.

A little backache at first. Daily increasing till the back is lame and weak. Urinary disorders quickly follow. Diabetes and finally Bright's disease. This is the downward course of kidney illness. Don't take this course. Follow the advice of a Canfield citizen.

Preston M. Cronk, of Canfield, Ohio, says: "My kidneys were disordered, causing severe pains in my back. Sometimes I could hardly arise in the morning and I could not stoop to fasten my shoes. The complaint first manifested itself after I had taken a severe cold, which settled in my kidneys. I finally procured a box of Doan's Kidney Pills at Morris' drug store and they acted directly on my kidneys. The first box relieved me and when I had used two boxes, I was completely cured. I know Doan's Pills to be all that is claimed for them."

For sale by all dealers. Price 50 cents. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, New York, sole agents for the United States. Remember the name—Doan's—and take no other.

Executors' Notice.

NOTICE is hereby given that the undersigned have been appointed and qualified Executors of the estate of Abraham Dutton, late of Mahoning County, Ohio, deceased, by the Probate Court of said county. All persons indebted to the estate are requested to present their claims for payment to the undersigned at the residence of the undersigned, CHAS. H. M. J. HARTZELL, Executor, December 18, 1908.

Formation of Character. Experience has proved that man has always been the creature of the circumstances in which he has been placed; and that it is the character of those circumstances which inevitably makes him ignorant or intelligent, vicious or virtuous, wretched or happy.

Schoolboy Definition. Some funny things happen in the schoolroom. A Brooklyn teacher called upon a small boy to define "multitude." "A multitude," said the boy, "is what we get when we multiply."



There seems to be no end of Santa Claus—he comes and goes—and before we know it he's here again. We've studied these "Old Santas" all Summer and Fall and have selected one with cunning and good judgment—one that will deliver to you from our store the most valuable and useful Xmas presents of new ideas in men's and boy's wear. Smoking Jackets are one of the useful gifts as a combination coat for house wear. Bath Robes in all sizes from age 4 and up—college colors for the young man at school—greys and browns for the conservative. We have a special in children's white, brown, grey, blue and red bearskin mitts—50c a pair, one in a box.

SMITH'S, The Big Dept. Store, COLUMBIANA, OHIO.

To Christmas Shoppers

Our lines are now complete in every detail. We call your especial attention to the following articles, as much to the quality as to the price. We carry the best the factories produce, and sell them at the prices big city stores ask for the imitations. You owe yourself a look if nothing else.

- Cut Glass, Imported China, Rogers' Silverware, Jewelry, Fancy Belts, Fancy Beltings, Imported Dolls, Imported Doll Carriages, Imported Doll China Sets, Imported Scarfs, Columbiana made Scarfs, Fur Scarfs, Fur Muffs, Child's Fur Sets, Handbags, Umbrellas, Imported Linens, Art Linens, Drawn Work Linen, Scalloped Linen, Imported Handkerchiefs, 1c to \$1.00, Imported Counterpanes, fringed, plain or scalloped edge, cut corners or square, \$1.00 to \$4.50, The handsomest line ever shown. Linen Towels, Imported line, all styles, 25c to \$2.00 each.

\$7.98 An assortment of Ladies' and Misses' all wool Wraps, made to sell at \$15.00 to \$20.00, all colors, all sizes,

Your Choice \$7.98 Don't Wait, Don't Wonder, They Are Worth Double. Compare and See. Special Handkerchief Sale, Saturday, Dec. 19. 100 dozen Fancy and Plain White Handkerchiefs, 1c each. 100 dozen Fancy and Plain White Handkerchiefs, 4c each, worth 10c. 100 dozen Fancy Imported Embroidered Handkerchiefs, made to sell at 25c, only 10c. A select line at 10c, 15c, 20c, 25c and 50c.

Come, get your Premium. We have a choice selection now. See our display of Graniteware and Housefurnishings on second floor.

SMITH'S, The Big Dept. Store, COLUMBIANA, OHIO.



Stop Look Read Consider Advance Holiday Announcements

Enjoy your Shopping by avoiding the crowd. DO IT NOW. Never has our HOLIDAY ASSORTMENT been LARGER or BETTER. Here are only a few suggestions to help you make your selections:

- Mother and Wife, Toilet Set, Picture Frames, Photo Album, Carpet Sweeper, Rugs, Draperies, Curtain Stretcher's, Writing Paper, Bibles, Father and Husband, Smoking Set, Shaving Set, Fountain Pen, Card Games, Checker Board, Safety Razor, Ink Stand, Desk Calander, Diaries, Sweetheart and Sister, Manicure Set, Glove Box, Handkerchief Box, Pearl Penholder, Postal Album, Work Boxes, Toilet Set, Music Roll, Beau and Brother, Collar and Cuff Box, Military Brush Set, Clothes and Hat Brush, Traveling Companion, Comb and Brush Set, Shaving Set, Smoking Outfit, Watches.

For the Children—Everything in the TOY line that the heart of the boy or girl could desire

The Weil-Hartzell Company, Cor Federal and Hazel Sts YOUNGSTOWN, O Atlas Stamps

